

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2023

### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 734.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 298 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 734.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1303

### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 734) to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth, with Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

The Democrats have gone to great lengths to call this bill extreme. The Democrats have gone to great lengths, being almost hysterical, to call this

bill discriminatory. It is neither of those things.

It is a one-page bill, which is rare in Congress, that strengthens existing protections for women, ensures a level playing field for female athletes, and protects women and girls from the Biden administration's radical regulatory scheme.

It is quite telling when the other party attempts to tear things down without offering an alternative vision. Democrats refuse to posit a reason for allowing biological men to compete in women's sports that comports with principles of athletic competition like fairness and integrity.

Democrats also refuse to address the implications of their position. If men can compete in women's sports, should they be able to take roster spots from women, to rob women of hard-earned achievements?

Instead, they appeal to emotion and call the other side bigots. It is such a tiring act, Mr. Chair.

How about providing evidence that self-identification is rooted in biological truth? Explain that a post-adolescent male athlete has zero physical advantages over women.

Democrats like to pretend they are the party of science. Where is the data?

The Democrat vote against this bill, including Biden's threat to veto it, is a vote against continuing to give women and girls equal opportunity to participate and compete in athletics.

We on the Republican side are grounded. We live in reality. So does the rest of America. Ask working-class Americans if Muhammad Ali should have been allowed to box women in his heyday or if Usain Bolt should have run the women's 100 meters.

It is not about callousness or lack of emotion. This is about grounding a leftist ideology that has lost its collective mind back in reality. In fact, Republicans are teeming with admiration and support for the women and girls who have come so far to get much-deserved recognition for their athletic achievements.

The left wants to talk about erasure. Let's talk about how American female athletes are being erased. We are not sensationalizing this problem. It exists. Females are being hurt by it, and action must be taken to stop that.

Mr. Chair, I hope this debate and the eventual passage of H.R. 734 help bring sanity to women's sports, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I speak in opposition to H.R. 734, the politics over participation act.

We can all agree on the need to address the challenges facing our education system, issues like gun violence, academic achievement gaps, and the lack of mental health support for our students. These are serious challenges that demand serious action.

Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues have used their first 100 days in

the majority to pursue a radical education agenda that prioritizes political points over students' safety and success.

Today, we are considering another piece of this extreme agenda, one that again targets transgender kids.

School sports activities offer fundamental life lessons—such as leadership, self-confidence, and teamwork—that every child should be able to enjoy. As Members of Congress, our responsibility is to ensure that student athletics are, above all, fair and safe.

H.R. 734 does the exact opposite. It makes school sports less fair by singling out and banning transgender women and girls as young as kindergarten from participating on school sports teams with their friends. We know transgender students already face widespread bullying and discrimination. Adding to their pain by targeting their participation in school sports is both wrong and dangerous.

Furthermore, contrary to my Republican colleagues' claims, H.R. 734 actually makes school sports less safe for women and girls. To enforce its ban on transgender student athletes, the bill would require all girls as young as their preteens to "prove their gender."

For example, under Utah's blanket ban on transgender student participation in school sports, parents of the second- and third-place finishers in a State-level girls' competition complained to the Utah High School Activities Association that they suspected the winner of the event was trans. Following the complaint, the school was forced to investigate the student by combing through her records going back to kindergarten. She was, in fact, not transgender.

The association has received other complaints about supposed trans competitors, sometimes with the reasoning being simply that a girl doesn't look feminine enough.

Simply put, H.R. 734 does not protect women and girls. It only makes school sports less safe and less fair.

There are schools, States, and sports associations that have been allowing transgender people to play equitably and consistent with their gender identity with no issues for decades.

This bill doesn't address the most elite level of athletes. Yet, even at the most elite level, organizations like the International Olympic Committee have frameworks for transgender inclusion in sports. They reject the type of categorical blanket ban Republicans are pushing for kids as young as kindergartners in schools.

Congress has no business targeting transgender women and girls and imposing a nationwide ban on their participation in school sports. We need to refocus on our job in Congress to address the most pressing issues facing students and parents and ensure that every child in America can reach their full potential.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 734, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Chairman, Genesis 1:27: "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female He created them."

Genesis 5:1-2: "When God created mankind, He made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them."

Jesus stated in Mark 10:6: "But at the beginning of creation, God made them male and female."

Also in Matthew 19:4: "At the beginning, the creator made them male and female."

For thousands of years in human history, we have recognized as a species that there are women and there are men, who are obviously biologically different, dare I say even scientifically different. Even science agrees with this premise.

Yet, over the last several years, there has been a perversion in our culture by the enemy, and the left has completely embraced the lie to erase the lines of gender and to convince you there isn't really gender and that gender is fluid and can be whatever you want, whenever you want—again, more lies.

The left has taken gender identity so far that many on the left today cannot even define what a woman is for fear of retribution by trans activists. Even the latest Supreme Court Justice appointed by President Biden could not define what a woman is during questioning, and she now sits on the highest court in the land.

The radical left has adopted completely made-up terms that didn't even exist just a few short years ago, like nonbinary, cisgender, trans male, trans female. You can even find that there are 74 made-up genders, 74 that you can choose from, everything from agender to omnigender. There is even an astral gender, which is having a gender identity that feels to be related to space. I don't even know what that means.

Just a few short years ago, even Democrats would say that this is ridiculous, but today, it is common speak for the radical left. If you question these fictitious terms, they label you transphobic—again, another leftist idiom.

I have three dictionaries in my house. One was copyrighted in 1828; one was copyrighted in 1959; and one was copyrighted in 1988. Shockingly, nowhere in any of these dictionaries are the terms "nonbinary" or "trans man" or "trans woman." Even if you look on Webster today, just Google Webster, it says that "trans man" and "trans female" are terms that were first used in 1996. During the entire history of mankind, you were either male or female until the last few years.

In worship to the trans movement, the Biden administration has moved at warp speed to infiltrate every aspect of the Federal Government with trans speak.

□ 1315

Most recently, just a couple weeks ago, I am assuming in response to this bill moving to a vote, the Biden administration was looking to insert rules on Title IX to force biological men into women's sports in complete defiance of the laws this body passed over 50 years ago.

Congress in 1972 created Title IX to protect women's sports to enable women to have an equal playing field in athletics. In worship to their trans idols, the administration wants to flip that on its head. It is insane.

Title IX was created for women's sports, and now the left wants to kill it. In them giving homage to the trans movement, they are abandoning women all across the country.

Parents do not want biological men in locker rooms with their daughters, nor do they believe it is equitable that a male can compete with women in female athletics. It is the whole purpose that Title IX was created to begin with.

The radical left wants you to believe that this never happens, and there are only a few instances of this happening. However, the facts bear this statement as false.

There is an entire website that documents examples of females who are displaced by males in women's sporting events. It includes the place "she would have won" had the male not been competing.

There are hundreds of examples documented on SheWon.org and Concerned Women has a spreadsheet with, again, hundreds of examples where women faced men in competition.

In my own district in Sarasota, Florida, my constituent, Emma Weyant, an incredibly talented swimmer and Olympic medalist, lost the 2022 NCAA women's swimming championships title for the 500 freestyle by 1.75 seconds to a man who formerly competed for years on the men's swimming team, who took home that title after identifying as a woman.

It is a sad day in America when the Democrats have regressed so far backward that they are willing to erase the rights that women have fought decades to obtain, all to elevate biological males to the top of women's podiums.

The integrity of women's sports must be protected. H.R. 734 preserves women's sports and ensures fair competition for generations of women to come, just as Title IX originally intended.

If my liberal colleagues truly believe in supporting women's rights, as they so often tout, they will vote in favor of this bill.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand for women's free and fair opportunity in athletics and to stand for truth, not lies.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, (Ms. PELOSI), Speaker Emerita.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank

him for his leadership for fairness and safety in our schools and for justice in our communities.

I stand here today in opposition to the legislation that is on the floor. In listening carefully to the maker of the motion, he references a religious context in his comments, and so will I, then, following his lead.

Yes, we are all God's children. We all have a spark of divinity in us, and therefore, are worthy of respect. That spark of divinity that is within us insists that we respect it in others, as well.

So recognizing that we are all God's children, I rise in opposition to this legislation because trans kids are all God's children; belong in sports, in schools, in books, in families, and on teams.

It is really important for us as leaders in our country to speak with respect for all of the people in our country.

Trans kids listen and hear what we say, and we do not want to do them harm for whatever purpose on the floor of this House.

The gentleman also referenced Title IX. While none of us were probably here when Patsy Mink very courageously passed Title IX, many of us were here as we reauthorized it over time and fought off, fought off initiatives to weaken it to say that in supporting women in sports was taking away from men in sports. That is simply not the case.

I will say that this bill is an insult to the legacy of fairness and inclusion that Patsy Mink intended, and was passed by the House and the Congress in Title IX; Senator Birch Bayh, the Senator from Indiana.

So I say let every child, regardless of gender identity, deserve a chance to be part of a team, to learn lessons of sportsmanship, to push themselves to reach their fullest potential and vote "no" against this legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chair, when Title IX became law in 1972, it was a watershed moment for every woman in America.

Title IX was a game changer for women and girls in sports to showcase their talents on the field without discrimination or prejudice.

I watched with pride as my five daughters competed during their high school days. I feel the same pride as I watch my 12 granddaughters learn, grow, and thrive as they compete and work to gain respect from their teammates through hard work and meritocracy.

Unfortunately, these life-changing opportunities afforded to generations of women and girls are under assault today.

We cannot sit back and watch biological males rob biological women of

equal athletic opportunities. We need to stop putting feelings of boys and men above fairness and opportunity for girls and women.

With this upside-down world of feelings over fairness, we are also stealing from our young men a major component of their self-esteem, the inborn and innate desire to respect and protect womanhood.

This is why I am proud to support the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023 to make sure women's sports are safe and fair.

Allowing biological men to compete in women's sports erodes the progress women and girls have made in athletics and undermines our cherished American values of meritocracy, hard work, and equality.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this commonsense bill and preserve the rights of all women to achieve their American Dream.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, a bill that puts politics over participation. I am deeply concerned about the increase in and apparent normalization of attacks against trans students.

Contrary to what my Republican colleagues say, this legislation will diminish civil rights, discriminate against students, and dismantle relationships of trust between students and their coaches and educators.

Trans rights are human rights. Denying trans students the opportunity to play on sports teams that are consistent with their gender identity sends a clear message to those students that they don't matter.

If my Republican colleagues are interested in protecting women and girls, I have a long list of priorities that I am eager to work on.

Let's pass commonsense gun violence prevention legislation. Let's pass legislation protecting reproductive freedom. Let's pass paid family leave and medical leave and close the gender pay gap.

We should be working together to create opportunities for every student to thrive with a focus on those who are most vulnerable, especially trans youth.

I want every trans student out there to know I see you, and I will never stop fighting for you. I urge my colleagues to show some humanity, stop attacking trans people, and vote "no" on this bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN), chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chair Foxx for yielding time.

Mr. Chairman, should the Jacksonville Jaguars play against a peewee football team? That would be ridiculous.

Should the minor league Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp play against a Lit-

tle League team? That would be crazy. Should men compete against women in sports? Of course not. In each example, it is just not fair.

The truth is, males have a lasting and lifelong athletic advantage—most notably, 36 percent more muscle mass, which allows for greater speed and force that cannot be erased with pharmaceuticals or hormone treatments.

Sadly, every time a male takes a lane in the pool, a spot on the field, or at the starting line, a female athlete loses the opportunity to compete.

Every time a male athlete is named a female All-American, a female athlete loses that honor. We are in a battle for the very survival of women's sports.

America, we hear you. Not everybody has gone off the deep end. Today, House Republicans will pass H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, to ban men from competing in women's sports.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in deep opposition to this bill. We should rename it the cancel kids trans hate bill. This bill fuels a virulent hate campaign against kids who just want to play with their friends.

Don't believe for a minute that this is about protecting women and girls because if Republicans cared about that, they would not be voting against equal pay, against paid sick leave, against universal childcare.

The way that this bill targets children in the name of gender equality is insulting. That is why women's organizations around the country, including the Women's Sports Foundation, have denounced this bill.

In reality, it actually endangers all women and girls. Think about it. How do you enforce this ban? How do you verify a girl's "reproductive anatomy"?

If a young girl—if your daughter doesn't look feminine enough, is she subject to an examination? This is absolutely absurd.

Republicans are cruelly scapegoating children to distract you from the very fact that you don't have actual solutions that answer the American people's problems.

This attack on transgender children, though, also has dire consequences. Over 75 percent of transgender students experience harassment or discrimination at school.

Mr. Chairman, 82 percent of transgender kids have considered suicide, and 40 percent have attempted suicide.

These bills tell some of the most vulnerable children in our country that they do not belong. Shame on you.

To trans people everywhere, I say, I see you, and I will fight for you. That is why last month I introduced the Transgender Bill of Rights with 100 cosponsors to stand up for trans kids so that you can lead your full lives as your authentic selves.

Mr. Chairman, I am the proud mother of a trans daughter, and when she came out to me, I unconditionally embraced her because I unconditionally love her.

If you don't understand what is going on with these kids, that is okay. I have learned so much from my daughter. Let's learn together, but don't, don't use our kids as punching bags and put them in danger.

When the Republican Governor of Utah, Spencer Cox, vetoed a similar sports ban, he said this: "I always try to err on the side of kindness, mercy, and compassion. . . . I don't understand what they are going through or why they feel the way they do, but I want them to live."

I want them to live. So to my colleagues, I say, stop targeting our children. Let them play. Let them live. Vote "no" on this hateful bill.

□ 1330

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), vice chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which ensures fairness and safety in girls' athletics.

Our daughters' opportunities to compete in athletics and their safety at school have been threatened by the radical left's disturbing trend of allowing biological men to compete with them and use the girls' locker room.

Earlier this month, the world watched in horror as leftwing rioters attacked a young woman named Riley Gaines and held her kidnapped against her will simply because she was speaking out to defend girls' sports. This week, the House will stand with Riley and all young women and girls who deserve the full protection of Title IX.

The Biden administration has been clear. They want men competing against our daughters, and they want to force schools to allow biological men to change and shower with our daughters in the girls' locker rooms. This is wrong.

Proverbs 31:8 reminds us that we must speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and defend the rights of those in need.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act and stand up for the rights and the safety of our daughters.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, while girls' participation in sports have increased 1,000 percent since Title IX, the participation numbers still have not reached that of boys 50 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Chairman, last month on the Education Committee, we toiled until the early hours of the morning, marking up our very first two

bills of the new Congress, one of which is the subject of our debate today, H.R. 734.

Regrettably, neither of the bills address the issues most pressing to students and teachers: murder by gun violence. There were 42 incidents of gun violence on school grounds this year alone, 17 deaths, and 32 injuries. Every day 22 children are shot and 5 die.

With all due respect, I missed the part in the Bible that said that people have a right to own a gun at the expense of our children's ability to live and go to school safely.

So let's be clear. This is not an effort to address the longstanding barriers all girls and women have faced in their pursuit of athletics. Leading women's sports organizations and gender justice organizations support transgender inclusion in sports without equivocation.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this hateful bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN), a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, first and foremost, I thank Congressman GREG STEUBE of Florida for introducing this important piece of legislation, and Chairwoman FOXX for managing this afternoon's floor debate.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023 will safeguard the ability of female athletes to participate freely in an athletic space that for decades has been specifically carved out for these athletes to compete safely.

When biological males infiltrate these spaces, opportunities are taken away from these biological females.

Earlier this month, the Biden administration proposed a new Title IX rule prohibiting public schools from banning transgender male athletes from competing in sporting events with girls and women and eliminating the State's policy to promote integrity in sports.

The Biden administration is attempting to change the playing field, but there is nothing equal or level about allowing biological men to compete in women and girls' sports.

Coaches in East Texas that I represent understand the biological differences between men and women, and they understand that there is nothing equal about allowing men to compete in women's sports.

This legislation will ensure that schools who receive Federal funding can still protect biological women's and girls' rights to freely and fairly participate in sports. As a father of two boys and two girls, this is important to me. This will safeguard and uphold the integrity of women's sports and the true intention of Title IX.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to stand here on the House floor today in support of this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), the chair of the Equality Caucus.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, let's face it, most people in the United States don't know someone who is transgender, and that can lead to fear of the unknown.

Some less-scrupulous politicians feed that fear and are willing to bully people, even kids, to lift themselves. They will tell you all sorts of distortions to manipulate you if it benefits them.

They argue that there is a national problem if trans girls participate in school sports. That is a lie. They don't care if it hurts kids—trans kids in this case—who already face huge rates of bullying just for being different. They just want to play with their friends and learn the value sports offer, but these politicians don't care. All they care about is building their political brand and lifting their fundraising.

How do I know they really don't care about girls and women in sports? Does anything in this bill address the severe inequities between men's and women's sports?

Not one word. In fact, most women's sporting groups oppose the bill.

It is not about keeping kids safe. If it was, it would be about keeping guns out of school.

Crickets on that.

Fortunately, not all Republicans agree.

The Republican Governor of Utah vetoed similar legislation highlighting the daily challenges trans kids already go through from bullying to suicide.

He shared how many trans kids play school sports in his State: Four trans youth, only one a girl. There is your raging national problem.

What is the Republican's response to this nonexistent issue?

Hurt kids for being kids by banning them from playing in school sports and even be as extreme as saying all female athletes, as young as in their pre-teen years, can be subject to personal bodily inspection by adults to prove that they are a girl.

Look, I know not everyone may understand this or may not know someone who is transgender, but just because you don't understand something isn't a good enough reason to outright ban kids from school sports.

We may not be able to stop unscrupulous politicians overnight, but we can stop bad legislation from hurting good kids.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Chairman, today I rise as a Christian, a husband, and a father in support of H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, a bill that I am proud to cosponsor.

Tennessee is well-known for its iconic and legendary women's basketball program, the Lady Volunteers.

Thankfully, our State has taken action to protect the Lady Vols from ever being threatened to have to compete against biological males. Whether it is for scholarships or national championships, biological males ought to compete against biological males, and bio-

logical females ought to compete against biological females.

Most Tennesseans consider this to be common sense.

That is why I am very thankful the House is considering the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act today, and I am extremely proud to support its passage.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time remains on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 17½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, which should be titled banning kids from school sports act.

No group of kids should be banned from school sports, period. We all know what school sports are about. It is about teamwork, determination, physical well-being. The Federal Government doesn't belong in our classrooms, in the locker rooms of these kids, or between these children and their parents.

There is this creepy idea that this bill is going to require genital inspections of children. I mean, this is outrageous.

There was an invocation of some liturgy just a few moments ago saying children are the creations of God. All children are the creations of God. It is not up to you to decide which children don't belong. These are all God's children. And don't accept this phony claim that this is about the safety of kids. In fact, we know otherwise.

A very conservative advocacy group came up with this idea. The President of that advocacy group said: "We knew we needed to find an issue that the candidates were comfortable talking about, and we threw everything at the wall." They came up with this campaign against trans kids, a sinister, political operation to use these kids to advance their success in politics. It is wrong. All kids belong playing in sports, to play with their friends, to enjoy their childhood.

There are more than 450 anti-trans bills being introduced all across this country. It is terrible. These children matter. We see them. We value them, and we have to respect them. Actually, trans kids belong and deserve to participate in every school activity.

Mr. Chair, if my colleagues really cared about the well-being of kids, let me remind them that the leading cause of death in this country is gun violence. Yet, our Republican colleagues will not do anything to protect children from being slaughtered in their schools—the leading cause of death in this country. Instead, we are going to spend time debating a bill to insert the

Federal Government into elementary schools and middle schools to prevent all children from participating in sports.

What a terrible idea. Shame on you. This is a disgrace, and I urge Members to vote “no” on this hideous piece of legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 90 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS), a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, within just a few years, our Nation will task the first women with the awesome responsibility of commanding our nuclear submarines. These submarines will serve on the front lines of any future global conflict, and they are among the most feared and powerful weapons in the world. Women who will command these boats will lead many of the finest sailors our Nation has ever seen.

In nearly every case, these women's paths to this extraordinary responsibility and this extraordinary call to leadership begin with and traveled through their competitiveness in sports.

Leadership, excellence, teamwork, inspiration, and sacrifice are all learned and earned on the sports field. They are champions. They are scholars. They are warriors.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 734 in celebration of the dramatic impact that women's competitive sports has brought to our Nation and are now adding to the defense of our Nation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 734, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

I say so-called because there is really nothing in this bill to protect women and girls in sports. It is telling that every amendment submitted by a Democrat to actually strengthen protections, such as addressing unequal funding, was ruled out as not germane by Republicans.

There are many real issues facing our Nation's women's and girls' sports teams, including disproportionate funding and resources compared to their male counterparts, but transgender athletes are not one of them.

Every sports federation supports transgender athletes competing on an equal basis, seeing no inherent advantage in sports competition for transgender athletes.

Transgender young people experience increased incidences of bullying, rejection, and discrimination, and nearly half of trans women and girls report seriously considering suicide in the past year.

Why would we consider this hateful legislation that aims to isolate an al-

ready vulnerable group of children further?

Mr. Chair, I am proud to have been the first Member of Congress to speak out in support of transgender rights on the House floor. I do not support traumatizing young children by subjecting them to intrusive genital inspections.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to urge my colleagues to oppose this hateful bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and secretary of the Republican Conference.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Chairman, I stand here today enraged that we are debating a bill to protect women and girls in sports.

I am enraged not because I disagree with the legislation, in fact, I fully support the legislation. I am enraged by the fact that we have reached a point in this country where we have to talk about a bill to protect women and women's sports is even necessary.

When Congress passed Title IX in this very Chamber a half a century ago, I thought it was supposed to be a victory for women across the United States.

At what point did we throw it away and make it meaningless?

Do we not care about women?

□ 1345

Did we forget about the women and the young girls?

Listen, as a wife, as a mother, as a female athlete, and as a coach of female athletes, I take offense to this, because now 50 years later, we are in the same Chamber, debating the merits of protecting women's sports, once again.

The left's hypocrisy on this issue has resulted in women being demolished in competitions, physically brutalized going up against stronger opponents. They are losing individual games, State championships, and NCAA's championships to biological males that have decided to become a woman.

That is their right, but what about the women's rights? What about the rights of the young girls? Do they not have any rights anymore?

Let's be clear about something: My Democratic colleagues can see what is going on and what is happening, and I believe they know that this is wrong, as well. That is why they hide behind it and don't deal with the real issue.

Because of that reason, I am enraged today that we are debating a bill that should not require any debate at all.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Chair, Dr. Maya Angelou once said: “When people show you who they are, believe them the first time.” Well, House Republicans have shown us over and over again who they are, and it is time we believe them.

They have introduced a national abortion ban. They oppose paid family

leave. They blocked the ERA. They fought against universal childcare. Now they are using the false guise of protecting women to blatantly discriminate against the trans community and threaten the privacy of all women and girls.

House Republicans make trans kids' participation in sports seem sinister and conniving, and that couldn't be further from the truth. Trans kids are kids. They should be able to live full lives with unlimited opportunities, including playing sports.

Despite what some of my colleagues have falsely claimed, trans girls and women do not have an overwhelming physical advantage compared to others. Just like all athletes, sometimes trans athletes win and sometimes they lose, but we know this isn't about facts. This is about discrimination and scoring political points.

To my colleagues who haven't been exposed to the LGBTQ+ community or met someone who is trans or may not understand all of the different terms, you still know this is wrong. You know it is wrong to isolate and stigmatize and shame kids.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), chairman of the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

In 2022, UVA swimmer and Olympic medalist Emma Weyant was the fastest woman in NCAA division 1 women's 500-yard freestyle race. Unfortunately, she was awarded second place. That is because Lia Thomas, a man, was allowed to swim against her and beat her for the national championship trophy.

Lia Thomas, whose given name at birth is William Thomas, ranks 65th among men in the 500-yard men's freestyle; however, he could beat all the biological women. A female student athlete at nearby Virginia Tech lost her opportunity to compete in the finals because a man took her place.

Sadly, Reka Gyorgy was one spot away from reaching her lifelong dream and qualifying for the championship finals. Reka did not blame Lia Thomas, but she did write a letter to the NCAA that said: “This is my last college meet ever and I feel frustrated. . . . That final spot was taken away from me because of the NCAA's decision to let someone who is not a biological female compete. . . . You could say I had the opportunity to swim faster and make the top 16, but . . . I can't help but be angry. . . . This is the result of the NCAA and their lack of interest in protecting their athletes.”

The NCAA pretends to provide fairness by allowing men to compete as women against true women if they just complete one year of testosterone suppression. Common sense and science tell us that no amount of testosterone

suppression can undo biology. We are all created immutably male or female, and every one of our trillion or so cells are either male or female.

In fact, the University of Nebraska exercise science professor, Dr. Gregory Brown, has published a study that shows that the athletic advantage of men exists even before puberty and persists even with testosterone suppression.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Men have a 40 to 50 percent greater muscle mass than women, but on average testosterone suppression only results in a 5 percent reduction.

The left wants to rob talented women and girls of opportunities to succeed and to achieve their dreams in the swimming pool, on the court, and on the field because they can't or won't define what a woman is.

The American people know this is wrong, and I am proud to vote "yes" for this bill to protect women and girls in sports.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA).

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in anger and strong opposition to this bill. Now, I know how painful life can be as an openly gay person, but that pales in comparison to what transgender Americans face every day.

Our voters send us here to address our country's biggest challenges, but instead of taking that responsibility seriously, House Republicans are choosing to bully and belittle trans children. This is about attacking a small group of children, and it is shameful.

These people don't give a damn about women or girls. If they did, we would be talking about the very real problems of paid equity and ensuring sports are safe from sexual harassment and abuse, but instead, they are peddling open bigotry and its disgusting BS culture war right here from the House floor. Why are Republicans so obsessed with attacking trans youth and children? We need answers.

To the trans and nonbinary youth that are watching this, I am so sorry your government is failing you today. We will never stop fighting to defend your dignity and your humanity. We love you.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), a true hero here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of protecting women and girls in sports, and protect them from what? Protect them from this, very simply: Cheating. It is cheating.

This is why we love sports so much. It is because of the fairness element of

it. It is why we don't allow deflated footballs or why we don't allow corked bats or Vaseline on a baseball. The list goes on and on. It is why we have referees and umpires and line judges, because we want it to be fair. That is one of the great things about sports.

If we are going to allow men into women's sports, why have any laws or rules about doping or steroids whatsoever? Why should any sports regulate doping or steroids if you are going to let men into women sports? It makes no sense at all. I beg that question. Anybody have an answer?

I don't hear an answer. I will beg this other last question for a moment while I have a minute. We are not talking about real women competing in women's sports; we are talking about real boys, real men competing in women's sports. I will leave it at that.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD the following letters from PFLAG, a consortium of women and girls' rights organizations and 40 professional athletes all in opposition to H.R. 734.

PFLAG,  
April 14, 2023.

MEMBER OF CONGRESS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Since our founding in 1973, we have been the connection for LGBTQ+ people with community, parents with resources, and allies with tools, bolstering the LGBTQ+ movement with strength, power, and love.

PFLAG families, members, and supporters in every District across the country urge Congress and others to support inclusion of transgender, nonbinary and intersex youth in sports. We strongly oppose isolating, and excluding youth from participation, and violating privacy and protection in order to combat discrimination granted in Title IX, which by law promises not to discriminate on the basis of sex.

In furtherance of the above,—and in pursuit of protecting trans, nonbinary, and intersex youth athletes who participate in sports with their cisgender peers—PFLAG National opposes H.R. 734, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023, and rejects its targeted attacks which not only harms transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth and their families but also harms girls' and women's sports as a whole.

When more than 20 states have or seek laws to restrict trans, nonbinary and intersex students from participating with their peers in sports, families everywhere must be able to rely on our federal government to seek fair inclusion and equal access in all areas of public education, including sports.

Our families across the nation are relying on you to do what this bill states in name but defies in content: Protect women and girls in sports by including—not excluding—trans, nonbinary and intersex youth participation in sports.

If you or your staff have any questions or wish to speak to your constituents who are part of PFLAG and can speak to the negative impact and harm that passage of this bill would have and inflict, please contact our Director of Policy Diego M. Sanchez.

PFLAG's network of hundreds of chapters and hundreds of thousands of members from

coast to coast are working to create an equitable, inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person is safe, celebrated, empowered, and loved. We are all counting on you to do the proper and honorable act of voting "No" on H.R. 734 when it comes to the House Floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

BRIAN K. BOND,  
Executive Director,  
PFLAG National.

APRIL 14, 2023.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: The National Women's Law Center and Women's Sports Foundation, joined by the undersigned women's and girls' rights organizations, write to voice our vehement opposition to H.R. 734, "The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023," and any other similar effort to ban transgender girls from participating in sports. As organizations deeply committed to fulfilling the promise of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 of equal educational opportunity for all women and girls, including in school sports, we have advocated for gender equity in schools for decades. We support the inclusion of all students, including transgender, intersex, and nonbinary students in school sports as part of this mission. While this bill is framed as "protecting women's and girls' sports," we write to call out this hateful measure for what it actually is: a discriminatory attempt to target an already-marginalized group, rather than to promote fairness and safety in school sports for women and girls. We thus urge you to oppose H.R. 734 and join us in rallying behind all women and girls and rejecting the efforts to enshrine sex discrimination against an especially vulnerable group within Title IX.

H.R. 734 unmistakably constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex. As recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court, numerous Federal courts, and the U.S. Department of Education, discrimination includes discrimination based on gender identity and sex characteristics. Title IX's mandate that all students must be able to access the benefits and opportunities of an education free from sex discrimination includes the right to play sports. It is well documented that sports participation is linked to increased academic achievement, and fosters in students increased emotional, mental, and physical well-being and a sense of community. Amending Title IX to exclude transgender, intersex, and nonbinary students from these essential benefits of sports participation betrays Title IX's broad purpose to defeat sex discrimination in education in order to further harm these students, who because of stigma and discrimination are already especially vulnerable to isolation and decreased academic performance.

The bill's title, "Protecting Women and Girls in Sports Act," is an intentionally deceptive misnomer, as H.R. 734 makes no effort to address the actual, pervasive discriminatory barriers that women and girls continue to face in school athletics. H.R. 734 does nothing to address the fact that college women have almost 60,000 fewer athletic opportunities to play than men, or that high school girls have over 1 million fewer opportunities than boys do to play sports. It fails to take any steps to open opportunities for women and girls of color, who are disproportionately impacted by these disparities in participation opportunities. H.R. 734 does not advance policies to address the second-class treatment women's and girls' teams continue to receive from their schools as compared to men's and boys' teams when it comes to facilities, equipment, and travel. Nor does H.R. 734 seek to strengthen protections against the rampant sexual abuse student-athletes of all ages and genders still



face. To put it plainly, one would be hard pressed to explain how banning transgender women and girls from playing alongside their peers does anything to address actual problems of sex discrimination in sports.

Transgender women and girls have been playing school sports for years, and claims that they have been unfairly “dominating” competition or excluding their cisgender peers from chances to play are utterly false. Indeed, recent data from the CDC shows that state policies that prevent transgender high school students from playing are correlated with lower participation by all high school girls between 2011 and 2019; meanwhile, participation by all girls remained unchanged in states with policies allowing transgender students to play. H.R. 734’s real purpose is not to expand opportunities for women and girls, but to deny transgender, intersex, and nonbinary students of their right under Title IX to equal athletic opportunities. This bill coopts the language of women’s rights to undermine protections against sex discrimination.

Not only does H.R. 734 fail to address the actual, ongoing problems that limit women’s and girls’ opportunities in school sports, but excluding women and girls who are transgender from school sports invites gender policing that threatens all women and girls. H.R. 734 is vague and unworkable, and could only be implemented by a combination of invasive and harmful practices. There is no principled way to apply the bill’s unclear language to the many girls and young women born with intersex variations, which by definition, are variations in “reproductive biology and genetics at birth.” Similar bans have been widely used to push girls and women born with these variations out of sports opportunities and have chilled their participation in school sports. Additionally, H.R. 734 would inevitably lead to some schools adopting invasive and dangerous “sex verification” practices, which police women and girls’ bodies by forcing them to submit to a variety of humiliating and unscientific practices for the purported purpose of determining whether they are “really” girls or women. These procedures make all women and girls vulnerable to sexual abuse, but are especially likely to be used to target Black and brown women and girls who do not conform to white ideals of femininity, other women and girls who do not conform to sexist stereotypes, and nonbinary and gender nonconforming students. If H.R. 734 becomes law, it would permit school districts, colleges and universities, and athletics associations to become the arbiters of who is “sufficiently” feminine to play, thereby perpetuating harmful racist and sexist stereotypes that punish students for who they are or how they look, and placing students at further risk for sexual abuse.

Transgender and intersex women and girls are women and girls, and should have the right to participate in athletics consistent with their gender identity. The blanket, discriminatory exclusion that H.R. 734 would mandate for every age, every sport, and every level of competition flies in the face of Title IX’s mandate of equal access to educational opportunities. H.R. 734 promotes fear, dangerous stereotypes, and sex discrimination based on misinformation, and it should not become law.

As women’s rights and gender justice organizations, we vehemently reject the dangerous legislation and rhetoric pushed by politicians seeking to marginalize transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people. Supporting the civil rights of women and girls cannot be separated from championing policies that protect the rights of transgender, intersex, and nonbinary individuals’ rights to be free from sex discrimina-

tion, including in school sports. This, at a minimum, includes voicing strong opposition to H.R. 734.

Sincerely,

National Women’s Law Center and Women’s Sports Foundation, joined by:

National Organizations:

A Better Balance, Advocates for Youth, Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence, American Association of University Women, Athletes Unlimited, Catholics for Choice, Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues, End Rape On Campus, Equal Rights Advocates, Family Values @ Work, Feminist Majority Foundation, Futures Without Violence, Girls Inc., Harvard Law School Gender Violence Program, Healthy Teen Network, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, It’s On Us, Jewish Women International, Just Solutions, Know Your IX, Advocates for Youth, Legal Momentum, the Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Council of Jewish Women, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice.

National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Organization for Women, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, National Women’s Political Caucus, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Public Justice, SafeBAE, Sexual Violence Prevention Association, SIECUS, Stop Sexual Assault in Schools, The Army of Survivors, The Every Voice Coalition, The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport, Ultra-Violet Action, Union for Reform Judaism, United State of Women (USOW), ValorUS, VOICE IN SPORT Foundation, Women’s Law Project, YWCA USA, 9to5.

State and Local Organizations:

AAUW Pennsylvania, Bucks County Women’s Advocacy Coalition, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Family Violence Appellate Project, Forward Allies, Gender Equality Law Center, Gender Justice, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Jane Doe, Inc., Legal Aid at Work, Maine Women’s Lobby, Make It Work Nevada, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Men Stopping Violence, Inc., Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Pride Arrostook, Rebuilding Hope! Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County, Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Violence Free Minnesota, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Women Against Abuse, Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, Women’s Resource Center, Women’s Resources of Monroe County, Inc., YWCA Berkeley/Oakland, YWCA Billings, YWCA Binghamton Broome County, YWCA Delaware, YWCA Duluth, YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley, YWCA Grand Island, YWCA Jamestown, YWCA Kaua’i, YWCA Minneapolis, YWCA New Hampshire, YWCA North Central Washington, YWCA Northeast Kansas, YWCA Northern New Jersey, YWCA of Eastern Union County, YWCA Pierce County, YWCA Princeton, YWCA Western New York, YWCA Yakima.

We, the undersigned athletes, believe that every child deserves to have their life changed for the better by being able to participate in the sport that they love.

As professional, Olympic and Paralympic athletes, we have dedicated our lives to

sports. Sports have given us our greatest friends, taught us incredible life lessons, and given us the confidence and drive to succeed in the world. Those of us who love sport know that its value goes far beyond the playing field, to developing a sense of self and identity, and reflecting what we value as a community. Sport is a tremendous outlet for physical and mental health, teaches valuable lessons on teamwork and discipline, and has brought us lifelong community. Every single child should have access to the lifesaving power of sports.

Right now, transgender and intersex human rights are under attack, with politicians in Washington D.C. pushing forward H.R. 734, the so-called “Protection of Girls and Women in Sports Act”, which would stipulate that Title IX compliance requires banning transgender and intersex girls and women from participating in sports. If this bill passes, transgender and intersex girls and women throughout the country will be forced to sit on the sidelines, away from their peers and their communities. Furthermore, the policing of who can and cannot play school sports will very likely lead to the policing of the bodies of all girls, including cisgender girls. This will deter girls from participating in sports and create additional barriers. Denying children access to a place where they can gain significant mental and physical health benefits, and learn lifelong lessons that come from being part of a team and working hard towards your goals does not protect women in sports.

We believe that gender equity in sport is critical which is why we urge policymakers to turn their attention and effort to the causes women athletes have been fighting for decades, including equal pay, an end to abuse and mistreatment, uneven implementation of Title IX, and a lack of access and equity for girls of color and girls with disabilities, to name only a few.

Our deepest hope is that transgender and intersex kids will never have to feel the isolation, exclusion and othering that H.R. 734 is seeking to enshrine into law.

Signed,

Abby Dunkin, Paralympic Gold medalist, Wheelchair Basketball, Team USA

Alison Desir, Founder, Harlem Run and Co-Chair, Running Industry Diversity Coalition  
Angela Hucles, Former Professional and Olympic Soccer Player, Team USA/NWSL; Former President of the Women’s Sports Foundation

Becky Sauerbrunn, Olympic Gold Medalist, Soccer, Team USA/NWSL

Bella Bixby, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Brad Stuver, Professional Soccer Player, MLS

Caitlin Cosme, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Carly Nelson, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Carrie Sheinberg, Former Olympic Alpine Skier, Team USA

CeCe Telfer, NCAA National Champion  
Celia Jiménez, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL and Spanish National Team

Chris Mosier, Triathlete & Duathlete, 6-time Team USA and Founder of TransAthlete.Com

Devin Ibanez, Professional Rugby Player, Major League Rugby

Emily Menges, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Erika Lawler, Olympic Ice Hockey Player, Team USA

Esther Lofgren, Olympic Rower, Team USA

Grete Eliassen, Professional Freestyle Skier

Gwen Berry, Olympic Track and Field athlete, Team USA

Imani Dorsey, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

JayCee Cooper, Powerlifter

Jessica Mendoza, Former Olympic Softball Player, Team USA

Johnny Stanton, Professional Football Player, NFL

Kaiya McCullough, Former Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Kaylie Collins, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Kendall Chase, Olympic Rower, Team USA  
Layshia Clarendon, Professional Basketball Player, WNBA

Lori Lindsey, Former Olympic and Professional Soccer Player, Team USA/NWSL

Madison Packer, Professional Ice Hockey Player, Premier Hockey Federation

Meaghan Nally, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Megan Rapinoe, Olympic and Professional Soccer Player, Team USA/NWSL

Meghan Duggan, Former Olympic Ice Hockey Player, Team USA

Meghan Klingenberg, Olympic and Professional Soccer Player, Team USA/NWSL

Meghan O'Leary, Olympic Rower, Team USA

Mikey Lopez, Professional Soccer Player, USL Championship

Naya Tapper, Olympic Rugby Player, Team USA

Pam Boteler, Former Team USA Sprint Canoeist

Patricio Manual, Professional Boxer

Sophia Herzog-Gibb, Paralympic Swimmer, Team USA

Sue Bird, Olympic and Professional Basketball Player, Team USA/WNBA

Tziarra King, Professional Soccer Player, NWSL

Mr. TAKANO. I remind my colleagues on the other side that trans people do exist. To deny their existence is to also deny their humanity, and this is a terrible thing.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Chairman, this morning I called a 12-year-old in my district who is worried about their future as a nonbinary kid in this country. They should be playing and learning, and not writing to their Congress Member, desperate to not lose their right to exist.

These are the priorities of the Republican majority—not addressing gun violence, rising rent, or medical bills, but violating the privacy of children. I am glad I get previews. I get special previews of what this Republican majority is going to try to do in this body because they are simply taking bills that are being passed in Florida and across the South, horrible bills, and trying to get them passed up here.

This isn't about a problem that needs a solution, but about politicians looking for a target. We want freedom and liberty for all of our people, and they want the government to be in children's pants. Disgusting.

History will not look kindly on this. Trans people will continue to fight for equity. We will be right by their side, and we will win.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I will start by stating the obvious fact that it

seems astonishing to even have to state: Men and women are biologically different and just by a boy calling himself a girl, it doesn't make it so.

It is amazing but telling that the same people who scolded us about following the science during COVID have attempted to do anything but follow actual science when it comes to men and boys in women's sports.

Boys shouldn't be dunking on girls during a high school basketball game or hitting home runs in a girls' softball game. No sane person can argue that men and women do not have different physical characteristics, strength, and speed. There is a reason why girls and boys have different sports teams.

I played sports in high school, and I am sure glad that we weren't as lost as a society as what we seem to be today. What has gone so horribly wrong in our society where those of us who are not okay with our daughters and granddaughters sharing a locker room or a bathroom with boys are the ones that are considered to be crazy by the liberal elites, sports leagues, and woke corporations.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to stand with our trans kids and their freedom to be who they are. To all of our trans and LGBTQ+ kids who are watching today, let me just say that we see you, that we love you, and that you belong.

Now, let's be clear about what this bill actually is: It is about legislating hate in the name of advancing a political agenda. Now, our colleagues are trying to claim that they are out here defending the rights of women as they are waging a campaign to take away our reproductive freedoms, to ban books, and now to bully our kids. It is disgusting.

I am proud to be a New Mexican, and I am proud to be from a State that is defending the rights of our children, of our LGBTQ+ community, and our reproductive rights, because in New Mexico, we stand with trans kids, and we stand in the fiercest opposition to this bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. Last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX, which has made incredible progress for women in this country, opening doors for countless women and girls.

Thanks to Title IX, women have been afforded incredible opportunities in sports. I have seen this firsthand in my daughter who is an aspiring college volleyball player, as well as through the growth of women's professional sports across this country, including women's hockey.

It is outrageous that we even have to consider legislation like this today,

but, unfortunately, Democrats are seeking to weaken Title IX. President Biden and Democrats across this Nation are pushing for radical policies that will jeopardize the progress that has been made over 50 years.

These policies ignore the biological differences between men and women. They will force female athletes to compete against biological males in high school and collegiate sports. They will jeopardize years of hard work put in by female athletes like my daughter and disincentivize their future participation. In short, they will erase women from athletics.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act will protect and strengthen Title IX and will ensure that women and girls have the level playing field they deserve.

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Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD an article from the Advocate titled "Judge Blocks Utah Trans Sports Ban, While Probe of Athlete Emerges," from August 2022.

[From the Advocate, Aug. 19, 2022]

JUDGE BLOCKS UTAH TRANS SPORTS BAN,  
WHILE PROBE OF ATHLETE EMERGES

(By Trudy Ring)

A judge in Utah has blocked enforcement of the state's transgender sports ban, days after news emerged that parents of cisgender female athletes had filed a complaint about an alleged trans competitor who turned out not to be.

Judge Keith A. Kelly in the Third District Court of Utah, located in Salt Lake County, issued a preliminary injunction Friday against the state's blanket ban on trans girls in girls' school sports, meaning it can't be enforced while a lawsuit against it proceeds. The ban is only one section of the law passed as House Bill 11. He left the rest of the law intact, including the requirement for trans girls to go before a commission to determine their eligibility to compete in girls' sports.

"Thus, the effect of this preliminary injunction will not mean that transgender girls will automatically be eligible to compete on their school's girls' teams," Kelly wrote. "Rather, it will allow them to compete only upon the commission's determination that their being able to compete is fair under all of the circumstances."

Utah lawmakers overrode Gov. Spencer Cox's veto to pass the legislation in March.

The injunction comes shortly after another development regarding the law. The parents of the second- and third-place finishers in a state-level girls' sports event complained to the Utah High School Activities Association that they suspected the winner of the event was trans. David Spatafore, legislative representative for the association, told the Utah Legislature's Education Interim Committee Wednesday, the Deseret News reports. The UHSAA had the student's school investigate, looking over her records all the way back to kindergarten, and it turned out that she was not trans. He didn't identify the student, the school, or the sport, citing privacy considerations.

He said the association has received other complaints about supposed trans competitors, sometimes with people saying a girl simply "doesn't look feminine enough."

Opponents of the law said this shows major problems with it. "We warned about this being a possibility, that everyone would accuse everyone who is successful of being



transgender,” Sue Robbins, a member of the Transgender Advisory Council of Equality Utah, told The Salt Lake Tribune. “It becomes about judging women’s bodies. And no body is safe.”

At his monthly press conference Thursday, Gov. Cox called this investigation a disturbing development. “My goodness, we’re living in this world where we’ve become sore losers, and we’re looking for any reason why our kid lost,” he said, according to the Tribune. “I have a real problem with that story. . . . I just wish we could be a little more thoughtful in life and a little less critical of other people.”

Meanwhile, the parents who filed suit against the law welcomed Friday’s injunction. “My husband and I are very relieved by this decision,” Debbie Roe, a parent plaintiff in the lawsuit, *Roe v. UHSAA*, said in a press release. “We are grateful the court understood how much harm this law has caused, which has been a huge source of stress and trauma for our child. Our daughter just wants the same chance as other kids to make friends and play on the team she loves. Today’s ruling gives her the opportunity to do that.”

“This is a win not only for my child but for all girls in this state,” added Jean Noe, another parent plaintiff. “This law is based on stereotypes and misconceptions that are harmful to all girls. I am grateful the court has put this dangerous law on pause and that, at least for the moment, all Utah children can know that they are valued and supported.”

“We are very pleased by the court’s decision,” said Justice Christine Durham, former chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court and senior of counsel at Wilson Sonsini, one of the lawyers representing the parents. “Thus far, every court to rule on a similar ban has barred it from taking effect, due in part to the serious harms caused by excluding an entire group of students from such an important school activity. We read today’s decision as recognizing that the law is not only discriminatory but puts Utah children at needless risk of lifelong harm. We look forward to moving forward with the case and securing a permanent decision blocking the law from taking effect.”

In addition to Wilson Sonsini, the parents are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to strongly oppose this attack on trans women and girls, known as the Republicans’ politics over participation act.

Americans are concerned about gun violence, paying rent, climate change, and reproductive rights, but Republicans are once again stoking culture fires, putting lives at risk, ignoring everyday kitchen-table issues, and searching for votes rather than solutions.

This legislation would make it a violation of Title IX for federally funded institutions to allow trans women and girls to play sports, potentially setting gender equity back decades and undermining the true purpose of Title IX.

This bill is so vaguely written that it would subject every single girl to undergo a medical evaluation to prove their femaleness. Did I wake up? Are we in Iran? Is this what we want to subject our girls to?

This bill is assaultive, dehumanizing, and tantamount to rape. To its core, this bill is issue-deflecting and cloaked in misogyny, and it is a true disgrace because I don’t think you would do this to a man to prove their maleness. This is sick.

Vote “no” on this legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I was a female athlete many years ago and didn’t have access to Title IX like women do today. I was a competitive basketball player, equestrian, and, yes, the 1975 teenage curling champion from Utica, New York. Some of these sports are sports where women and men can compete equally, and some are not.

I recently attended an event with Riley Gaines, the brave young woman who is standing up for women against the NCAA’s unfairness in the women’s swimming championship.

Riley Gaines tied for first with a biological male and was denied the ability to get her trophy. In fact, they sent it to her in the mail. She couldn’t stand on the podium because she was told by an NCAA official that they needed a photo op to put the biological male in that place, a person who had competed as a male for 3 years unsuccessfully before coming in and reaching the top of the women’s championships.

Unfortunately, Riley did not get to have that title. She did not get to sit on the podium.

Today, House Republicans are standing up for Riley and women like her.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, this type of unfair competition weakens Title IX protections. I hope that we will all join in and protect women’s sports, especially when we have worked so hard as women to gain these rights for women, our grandchildren, and our children of tomorrow.

I thank the sponsor, Mr. STEUBE, and I thank Dr. FOXX for putting this bill on the floor and for her advocacy.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN).

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to this bill.

I hate bullies. This bill is about bullying children.

Children struggle with identity, gender, and otherwise. As a parent, I need all the other adults, teachers, coaches, and lawmakers to help me and my wife to protect our children, support them, give them a sense of purpose and belonging.

This is the opposite of that. You are picking on children.

Your government has become so intrusive in our lives. You are in our doctors’ offices banning reproductive free-

dom. You are in our classrooms banning books and what teachers can and can’t say.

Now, you are in my daughter’s locker room requiring physical exams of children? It is so profoundly disgusting and inappropriate.

It is un-American. Don’t tread on us. Let us be.

We have an economy to fix, a public safety crisis to address, a border to secure, a budget to balance, roads to pave, and bridges to build.

Focus. Stop bullying children.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD letters from the Human Rights Campaign and the Athletes’ Advisory Council.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN,

April 14, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign’s more than three million members and supporters nationwide, I write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 734—the misnamed Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023 which seeks to implement a discriminatory ban on transgender girls participating in girls’ sports nationwide. As the nation’s largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer equality, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact this legislation would have on young people already facing significant challenges due to stigma and discrimination.

Athletics are an experience everyone deserves equal access to. School sports provide important development opportunities that teach young people about teamwork, perseverance, leadership, discipline, and exercise, and help them build friendships and community. All kids—including transgender girls and intersex children who would also be restricted from participating in school sports by this bill—should have the same opportunities to participate in activities that embody our shared ideals as Americans.

We know that allowing transgender and intersex youth to play sports in school does not disadvantage anyone else. States, school districts, and athletic associations around the country have allowed transgender and intersex young people to participate in school sports consistent with their gender identity for decades—all without issue. Indeed, despite hundreds, if not thousands, of transgender women and girls participating in sports over time, only a handful of transgender athletes in high school or college have had any notable success. This is because transgender and intersex students do not seek to participate in sports consistent with their gender identity to gain an unfair advantage—they do it for the same reasons other young people play sports in school: to challenge themselves, improve their fitness, be part of a team, and have fun.

Banning transgender and intersex kids from playing sports in school would do nothing to address ongoing, well-documented threats to girls’ and women’s sports, including a lack of equal resources, pay inequality, and sexual harassment. Advocates for women and girls in sports like the National Women’s Law Center, the Women’s Sports Foundation, Women Leaders in College Sports, and American Association of University Women all support policies allowing transgender people to play sports consistent with their gender identity.

These groups oppose efforts to exclude transgender students like this bill, which

would promote baseless fears and misinformation rather than solve any real problems.

We urge you to vote no on H.R. 734, as well as vote against any anti-LGBTQ+ amendments. We will consider these key votes.

Sincerely,

KELLEY ROBINSON,  
*President.*

—  
ATHLETES' ADVISORY COUNCIL,  
April 14, 2023.

Re H.R. 734—OPPOSE.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: The Team USA Athletes' Commission (Team USA AC), formally known as the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC), serves as the representative group and voice of Team USA athletes (approximately 5,000 athletes). We write to you today to voice our opposition to H.R. 734, "The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023."

H.R. 734 does not align with the Team USA AC position, as detailed in our June 2022 Statement on Transgender and Nonbinary Athlete Inclusion:

"The AAC [now Team USA AC], which serves as the representative group and voice of Team USA athletes, seeks to promote a safe and welcoming environment for everyone involved in sport, consistent with the AAC's core values of championing diversity, equity and inclusion.

Everyone should have equal access to and opportunity in sport. The AAC opposes any attempt to marginalize, limit or deny human rights and is on the side of inclusion of all participants in youth sports. Banning transgender and nonbinary kids from sports ostracizes from a fundamental part of growing up and all the benefits sports provide to youth.

The AAC also recognizes the difference between youth sports (K–12 and recreational) and elite sports. Competitive sport relies on a level playing field where no athlete has an unfair and disproportionate advantage over another. Sport must ensure everyone, irrespective of their gender identity or sex characteristics, can compete in a safe environment that respects and recognizes their needs and identities while balancing the interests of ensuring fair competition. Like the IOC, we echo that simply because an athlete is transgender or has an intersex variation, does not mean they automatically have a competitive advantage in sport.

Each sport's governing body should be given the latitude to determine how an athlete may be at a disproportionate advantage over another considering the nature of each sport. Eligibility criteria play a paramount role in ensuring fairness, particularly at the elite level. Such criteria should be evidence-based, employ a stakeholder centered approach and be grounded in inclusion, prevention of harm, fairness and nondiscrimination. As the AAC, we remain committed to ensuring all athletes have the right to participate in sport in a way that respects their health, safety and dignity.'

The blanket exclusion that H.R. 734 would mandate for every age, every sport, and every level of competition is contrary to Title IX's mandate of equal access to educational opportunities.

We ask all members of Congress to oppose H.R. 734.

Sincerely,

MARK LADWIG,  
*Chair, Team USA Athletes' Commission.*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, and I still I rise with but 30 seconds to take a position.

It is impossible in the time allotted to give a proper recitation. I can but say this: I don't believe that this is the place for this decision to be made, regardless as to what your position is. I stand against the legislation because I don't think it ought to be before the House of Representatives.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I want to briefly discuss the proposed regulation the Department of Education recently issued on this topic.

Frankly, either you believe women's access to athletic opportunity should be protected or you don't. Either you believe fairness and safety in women's athletics should be protected or you don't.

The Department of Education clearly doesn't believe in those things. If it did, it wouldn't have proposed a rule that will upend the laws 20 States have on the books protecting women's sports.

More shockingly, the Department's rule provides no meaningful guidelines as to what will be an acceptable level of protection for female athletes. That decision will apparently be made on a case-by-case basis by Secretary of Education Cardona.

Democrats apparently believe one man should get to decide whether or not women athletes are guaranteed equal access, fairness, and safety. Once upon a time, Democrats would have recognized the cruel irony of that. Unfortunately, that day is long gone.

Fortunately, Republicans haven't lost sight of our obligation, and that is why we will pass this bill.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, may I inquire of the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in solidarity with our children across the Nation.

I want to speak plainly to our trans kids: You belong. You are enough. You deserve to show up fully in this world. You deserve joy and every single opportunity. You are perfect just as you are. In the classroom and on the soccer field, you should not be subject to discrimination. You should be able to just be a kid. I will always be in your corner.

To anyone who supports this cruel bill, shame on you. If you want to advance policy on behalf of our kids, this isn't it. Ban assault weapons so they can live to the last school bell. Get off your soapbox and stop politicking with our kids' lives.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD letters from the ACLU, the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights, and GLSEN, all in opposition to H.R. 734.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION,

Washington, DC, April 14, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The American Civil Liberties Union strongly urges you to oppose H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. This discriminatory and unconstitutional legislation would make it illegal for schools receiving federal funding to allow transgender girls and women to play on sports teams for girls and women, in violation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. In addition, under Title IX, all girls, including those who are transgender, should be able to participate fully and equally in athletics, in accordance with who they are. This will be the first vote in congressional history to specifically single out transgender people for discrimination. Because of the importance of this vote, the ACLU will be scoring it.

Across the country, state legislatures have advanced legislation to ban transgender children from participating in sports, particularly transgender girls. These legislators—like the proponents of this legislation—have argued that passing these bans is necessary to protect sports for girls and women. There are a multitude of barriers facing female student athletes—from continued funding inequities to pay disparities among coaches and staff to harassment and abuse. The participation of their transgender peers, who frequently number in the single digits in states that have enacted bans identical to this one, is simply not one of those barriers.

Legislators supporting these bans are cynically using transgender people as political pawns under the guise of "protecting women's sports," yet leading advocates for women's sports, including the Women's Sports Foundation, Women Leaders in College Sports, the Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport, National Women's Law Center, and hundreds of athletes in women's sports and other women's rights groups have consistently voiced their strong support for inclusion of transgender girls and women in women's sports.

These organizations rightly recognize that transgender girls and women participate in sports for the same reasons as their peers who are not transgender: to be part of a team, learn sportsmanship, and challenge themselves. The experience of 12-year-old Becky PepperJackson from West Virginia is reflective of so many other transgender youth across the country. These are Becky's own words:

A long time before I or my parents understood what the word "transgender" meant—as far back as I can remember—I knew that I am a girl. I'm 12 years old and in the 7th grade now, and I'm lucky that my friends at school all accept me for who I am: a girl who loves math and science, anything pink, and playing video games with my friends. And I'm a runner. Most of my family runs. I run with my two big brothers and my mom, and sometimes my aunt joins us too.

After I ran with my school's cross-country team in the spring of 2022, my coach encouraged me to try out for some of the field events. I made the team for shotput and discus, and I love both. It was so much fun to cheer on my teammates at the meets, and they would cheer me on when I competed in my events. I kept up with cross-country too. The past two years on my middle school's girls' cross-country and track-and-field teams have been the best of my life. My teammates and I have the best time during practices and at cross-country and track-

and-field meets. They support me even when I am not the fastest or best on the team. I don't want to stop doing the thing that I love and that is part of who I am. Sports are everything to me and my cross-country and track-and-field teams have become my second family over the last two years. I have many more years of cross-country and track-and-field left, and I just want the opportunity to participate in school sports like any other girl.

H.R. 734 does nothing to address the real barriers facing female student athletes. Instead, it targets a small, already vulnerable group of people for further discrimination. The ACLU strongly urges all Members to vote NO on H.R. 734.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER ANDERS,  
*Federal Policy Director.*

IAN S. THOMPSON,  
*Senior Legislative Advocate.*

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,  
*Washington, DC, March 27, 2023.*

#### OPPOSE H.R. 734 TO PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS

Dear Member of Congress: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 230 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 187 undersigned organizations, we call for the full inclusion, protection, and celebration of transgender, non-binary, and intersex youth, including access to extracurricular activities such as athletics and to school facilities, safe and inclusive school environments, and accurate and inclusive curriculum. We reject H.R. 734, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023, because it would harm women and girls and undermine civil rights for all students.

This discriminatory proposal seeks to exclude transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people from athletics programs in schools. Although the authors of the legislation represent themselves as serving the interests of cisgender girls and women, this legislation does not address the longstanding barriers all girls and women have faced in their pursuit of athletics. Instead of providing for equal facilities, equipment, and travel, or any other strategy that women athletes have been pushing for for decades, the bill cynically veils an attack on transgender people as a question of athletics policy.

Youth sports often play a significant role in children's lives and development, helping them to develop critical life skills like communication, teamwork, and leadership. Sports spaces are imperative for all young people, no matter their gender. Transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth want to participate in team sports for the same reasons as their cisgender peers: to be part of a team, learn sportsmanship, and challenge themselves. School athletics are very often the centerpiece of communities across the country, and denying transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth the chance to participate only serves to deny them an opportunity to be part of that community, further isolating and stigmatizing these youth.

The civil and human rights community is no stranger to the proffering of a bigoted agenda as if it were about equal opportunity. We know about wolves in sheep's clothing. We know that when affirmative action policies created to level the playing field in higher education admissions are attacked by opponents of voting rights, that their agenda is not about the rights of people of color

know that when companies profit from poverty wages for disabled people, especially in segregated work sites, that their agenda is not about independence and self-determination for worker. And we know that when opponents of Title IX, those who have sought for decades to weaken its protections and undermine its enforcement, now present themselves as the law's champions, that their agenda is not about the rights of women and girls.

Targeting and excluding transgender, non-binary, and intersex students from participation in school programming, including athletics programs, alongside their cisgender peers is harmful to all students and undermines the learning environment for everyone. If schools mark some students effectively as outcasts, they foster an environment where no student is included and safe. H.R. 734's vague language and intrusive focus on scrutiny of students' bodies will effectively exclude girls and women with intersex variations from participation, will invite scrutiny and harassment of any other student perceived by anyone as not conforming to sex stereotypes, and will likely be disproportionately used to target girls and women of color. We support the full inclusion and protection of transgender, non-binary, and intersex youth.

We are fortunate that transgender, non-binary, and intersex people are present in our community, and we fully embrace them as members of our community. As organizations that care deeply about ending sexbased discrimination and ensuring equal educational opportunities, we support laws and policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, including full and equal participation in sports, access to gender-affirming care, access to school facilities, and access to inclusive curriculum. We firmly believe that an attack on transgender youth is an attack on civil rights.

We ask all members of Congress to strongly oppose H.R. 734 and to reject attacks on transgender, nonbinary, and intersex youth; to commit themselves to meaningfully advancing policies that support equal opportunity; and to reassure all students in the Nation's classrooms that they will have the chance to learn, grow, and thrive. If you have any questions, please reach out to Liz King, senior program director at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Sincerely,

National (116): The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Act To Change; Advocates for Youth; American Association of University Women; American Atheists; American Civil Liberties Union; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers; American Humanist Association; American School Counselor Association; Asexual Visibility and Education Network; Asian Americans Advancing Justice|AAJC; Athlete Ally; Autistic Self Advocacy Network; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Campus Pride; Care in Action; Center for American Progress; Center for Applied Transgender Studies.

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR); CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers; Children's Defense Fund; Clearinghouse on Women's Issues; Collective Power for Reproductive Justice; Community Catalyst; Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund; EDGE Consulting Partners; EducateUS; SIECUS In Action; Education Reform Now; Educators for Excellence; End Rape On Campus; Equal Rights Advocates; Equality Federation; Equity Forward; ERA Coalition; Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) Program; Family Equality; Feminist Cam-

Feminist Majority Foundation; Fenway Institute; FORGE, Inc.; Girls Inc.; GLAAD; GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD); GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality; GLSEN; Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights; Human Rights Campaign; Human Rights First; Ibis Reproductive Health; If/When/How; Lawyering for Reproductive Justice; Impact Fund; interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth; Interfaith Alliance; Japanese American Citizens League; Juvenile Law Center; Know Your IX; Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Lambda Legal; League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund; LPAC Action Network; LULAC-IL; MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund); Matthew Shepard Foundation; MomsRising; Movement Advancement Project; MoveOn; NAACP; National Black Justice Coalition; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE); National Center for Transgender Equality; National Center for Youth Law; National Council of Jewish Women; National Crittenton; National Disability Rights Network (NORN); National Domestic Workers Alliance.

National Education Association; National Hispanic Media Coalition; National LGBT Cancer Network; National Organization for Women; National Recreation and Park Association; National Urban League; National Women's Law Center; Oregonizers; PFLAG National; Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Plume Health; PowerOn, a program of LGBT Tech; Public Citizen; Public Justice; Reproductive Rights Coalition; Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA); SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change; Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF); Stanton Ventures; Supermajority.

The Advocates for Human Rights; The Education Trust; The Sikh Coalition; The Trevor Project; TransAthlete; Transform Together; Transgender Law Center; True Colors United; Trust Women; Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Association; United State of Women (USOW); VoteProChoice; We Testify; Whole Woman's Health; Whole Woman's Health Alliance; YWCA USA.

State/Local (72): Acadiana Queer Collective; Aces NYC; Action Together New Jersey; Advocates for Children of New York; African American Office of Gay Concerns; AIDS Foundation Chicago; Arkansas Black Gay Men's Forum; Avow Texas; Bans Off Miami; Central Florida Jobs with Justice; Chicago Abortion Fund; Cobalt; Colorado Children's Campaign; DC Abortion Fund; Democrats for Education Reform DC (DFER DC); DFER Colorado; Disability Law Center; Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance; Education Law Center Pennsylvania.

Education Reform Now Massachusetts; Education Reform Now Texas; Equality California; Equality Florida; Equality Illinois; Equality South Dakota; Equality Virginia; Equality Maine; FL National Organization for Women; Florida Council of Churches; Florida Health Justice Project; Gender Justice; GLSEN New Mexico; Greater Orlando National Organization for Women; Indivisible Coalition of Georgia; Indivisible DuPage; Indivisible Miami; Jane's Due Process; JASMYN, Inc.; Joy as Resistance.

Lafayette Citizens Against Censorship; Los Angeles LGBT Center; Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship; Louisiana Coalition for Reproductive Freedom; Louisiana Progress; Louisiana Trans Advocates; Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition; Mazzoni

Center; Men Stopping Violence, Inc.; Missouri Health Care for All; National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis; New Jersey Safe Schools Coalition; New Orleans Youth Alliance; One Colorado; OutFront Minnesota; OutNebraska; Pride Action Tank; Pro Choice Missouri; Pro-Choice Connecticut; Pro-Choice North Carolina.

Pro-Choice Ohio; Pro-Choice Washington; Progress Florida; Project Butterfly New Orleans; Queer Northshore; Reproductive Freedom Acadiana; Silver State Equality-Nevada; SOMA Justice of South Orange/Maplewood; St. Tammany Library Alliance; The Parents' Place of MD; The Womxn Project; Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations; Youth Outlook.

— GLSEN.

Minority Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER JEFFRIES: Thank you for your ongoing leadership in combating the rise of discrimination against LGBTQ+ Americans. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

GLSEN is the leading national organization on LGBTQ+ issues in K-12 education, working at the local, state, and national level to transform education systems to improve conditions for LGBTQ+ students across the United States.

GLSEN believes that every student has the right to a safe, supportive, and LGBTQ-inclusive K-12 education, and works to ensure that LGBTQ+ students are able to learn and grow in a school environment free from bullying and harassment.

H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, is designed specifically to attack students in the LGBTQ+ community, and opens the door for bullying and harassment. This legislation prohibits transgender students from participating in sports that align with their gender identity, robbing them of their right to participate in sports.

Participation in sports has positive effects on youth development, such as improving physical health, social skills, and psychological well-being. Additionally, research has found that sports participation is related to greater feelings of school belonging and pro-school behaviors. To restrict which students can benefit from participation in sports is to contribute to a hostile school environment that further isolates and discriminates against transgender students.

Policies that create social exclusion have been found to have a negative impact on students' mental health. GLSEN's 2021 National School Climate Survey found that among those who reported considering dropping out of school, over half (51.5 percent) said it was due to hostile school climate created by anti-LGBTQ+ policies, such as restrictions on their ability to access sex-separated spaces. Further, students who experienced anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination were nearly three times as likely to have missed school in the past month as those who had not (43.3 percent vs. 16.4 percent). These students reported lower levels of self-esteem, higher levels of depression, and were more than twice as likely to have seriously considered suicide in the past year as compared to students who did not experience these discriminatory policies.

H.R. 734 targets the 41 percent of transgender youth who have participated on at least one school sport team in the past year. Removing students from their sports teams will reinforce feelings of self-doubt, isolation, and a feeling that they do not belong.

Rather than working to further entrench the mental health problems faced by stu-

dents, Congress should be acting to support our children in schools. American families want to enjoy time watching their children participate in their favorite sports, not incite flames of hatred and exclusion.

GLSEN thanks you for your ongoing leadership and we are happy to serve as a resource if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

AARON RIDINGS,  
*Chief of Staff and  
Deputy Executive  
Director for Public  
Policy and Research,  
GLSEN.*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the Democratic whip.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am from Boston. If you want to talk about sports, I am all in. If you want to talk about equality for women and girls, if you want to talk about Title IX and ensuring fairness in sports, sign me up.

As far as kids in sports go, as a mom of three, I can't tell you how many hours I have spent cheering on my kids. It is lacrosse, basketball, and baseball. It has been soccer, rugby, cross-country, and track. We have seen in my family championship teams through T-ball teams where our entire goal was to just get the outfield to stop digging for worms.

All of this is about kids and their experience, about learning, growing, forming friendships, knowing what it means to work hard, to practice, to see results, and to be a team.

I was very interested when this bill was filed to see what it was, what the problem was that the NCAA in Massachusetts and across this country, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and its counterparts around the country, the Olympics, the International Track and Field Association, what they were missing. I read this bill, and what they are missing is nothing.

This is not a problem in our communities, on our sports fields, for our children. I think it was articulated so well by the Republican Governor of Utah when he pointed out numbers that were important to his decision to veto a similar bill: 75,000 kids play high school sports in his State, just four of them are trans kids, and one of them plays girls' sports.

Mr. Chair, 86 percent of our trans youth will have suicidal ideation, and 56 percent will attempt suicide.

What are we doing here? What are we doing here as Members of Congress?

As the Governor said, we are expending so much fear and division on so few, on kids. Think about what we are doing as Members of the United States House of Representatives.

I keep thinking about the mom who told me about her rural community where her concern was the grief because they were losing their children, losing them because there wasn't eco-

nomic opportunity for them in their hometown and losing them because they are dying of opioid overdoses.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chair, let's think about this. We need to be working on the issues that matter to families and kids.

To make these children responsible for all of that and to incite fear, discrimination, and hatred, you should hang your heads in shame.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 4¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a statement by the National Parents Union in opposition to H.R. 734.

NATIONAL PARENTS UNION.

H.R. 734 bullies kids instead of teaching them to read. It's time to get focused on what matters to American families.

The National Parents Union continues to be frustrated with the lack of focus from House and Education Workforce Committee Leadership on issues that matter to American Families. Families across the country want Congress to focus on ensuring that every child is prepared for their future—not bullying kids who want to play sports among their peers.

32 percent of our country's 4th graders were proficient readers according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress. That means that 7 out of 10 of our current 5th graders cannot fully engage in their learning because they cannot read the content.

Our latest national parent poll clearly states parent priorities and nowhere to be found is anything about members of their kids sports teams.

90 percent Believe students should have access to high-quality, well rounded education with resources to support their individual needs.

90 percent Believe that students should be prepared for college and/or careers when they graduate.

90 percent Believe students should be protected from any form of discrimination at school.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the full Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, this bill is a mean-spirited attack on transgender women's and girls' participation in sports.

It essentially requires women and girls to prove their gender. In Kansas, where a similar bill was passed, students could be forced to have invasive inspections of their body parts.

The bottom line is, we should let parents, doctors, and sports organizations do their jobs to protect student athletes. For example, the NCAA supports a sport-by-sport approach to

transgender student participation, and high school leagues are also dealing with the issue.

We should focus our time on ensuring that children in America reach their full potential through high-quality public education.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 734.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Chair, I rise in the strongest opposition to H.R. 734.

This is one of the most powerful bodies in our Nation. We should be using our influence and our power for good. We should be alleviating the suffering of our constituents and not fanning the flames of fear and enabling discrimination.

What upsets me the most about this bill is that it is devoid of compassion for the kids who just want to live their lives.

I was honored yesterday to meet with Rebekah Bruesehoff. This wonderful 16-year-old girl spoke about the incredibly positive impact sports and community have in her young life. To Rebekah and trans kids everywhere, there are allies in Congress who care deeply about you, and we will continue to fight for your rights.

We should not be choosing to use the power of this institution to attack young kids who just want to live their lives.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote for the motion to recommit so that I can offer an amendment to protect student athletes' sexual privacy and keep schools accountable when sexual abuse occurs.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of this amendment.

Ms. Balint moves to recommit the bill (H.R. 734) to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike the text of the bill and insert the following:

# SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 901 by adding at end the following:

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit or restrict a female athlete's right to privacy over her personal reproductive or sexual health information.

“(e) LIABILITY FOR SEX-BASED HARASSMENT.—

“(1) HARASSMENT BY AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND OTHER PERSONS AUTHORIZED BY THE RECIPIENT TO PROVIDE AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY.—Subject to subsection (f), a recipient shall be liable if its agent, employee, or other person authorized by the recipient to provide an athletic program or activity under the recipient's program or activity, engages in sex-based harassment against a person who participates in or receives any benefit, service, or opportunity from such

program or activity, or who attempts to receive such benefit, service, or opportunity, regardless of where the harassment occurs, if—

“(A) the harassment is enabled or assisted by the authority exercised as an agent, employee, or other authorized person of the recipient; or

“(B) the recipient receives notice of the harassment.

“(2) HARASSMENT BY NON-AGENTS, NON-EMPLOYEES, AND OTHER NON-AUTHORIZED PERSONS.—Subject to subsection (f), a recipient is liable for sex-based harassment if a person who is not its agent, employee, or other authorized person, engages in sex-based harassment against a person who is participating in an athletic program or activity, or who is attempting to do so, regardless of where the harassment occurs, if the recipient receives notice of the harassment.

“(f) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient is not liable in a private action for damages under subsection (e) for sex-based harassment, if the recipient demonstrates that it exercised reasonable care to prevent sex-based harassment and to promptly remedy the effects of the sex-based harassment at issue, including through a demonstration by the recipient that it—

“(A) established, adequately publicized, and enforced an effective and comprehensive sex-based harassment prevention policy, training, and complaint procedure that is likely to provide redress and to avoid harm without exposing the person subjected to such harassment to undue risk, effort, or expense;

“(B) if requested by an aggrieved person subjected to sex-based harassment (or the parent or guardian of such person, if such person is a minor), or otherwise necessary to protect such person or other persons in such program or activity from a significant ongoing threat of harm, undertook a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation of such harassment;

“(C) provided supportive measures that have the purpose and effect of preserving and restoring a person subjected to sex-based harassment's equal access to the recipient's education program or activity (including any athletic program or activity), regardless of whether such person requests an investigation; and

“(D) took other necessary, immediate, and appropriate corrective action designed to stop such harassment and remedy its effects.

“(2) NOT ESTABLISHING REASONABLE CARE.—A showing that the harassment did not recur after the recipient received notice of the harassment does not establish reasonable care absent the demonstration required by subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

“(g) NOTICE.—A recipient receives notice of sex-based harassment if an agent, employee, or other authorized person of the recipient, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, about the harassment and—

“(1) has the authority to take action to redress the harassment;

“(2) has the responsibility to report to an administrator harassment or similar misconduct by others; or

“(3) receives a report of such harassment from an individual who could reasonably believe that the agent, employee, or other authorized person is as described in paragraph (1) or (2).”; and

(2) in section 903—

(A) in the 1st sentence by inserting “(a)” before “Any”; and

(B) by adding at the end of the following: “(b) Any person aggrieved by the failure of a recipient to comply with section 901, or a rule issued under this title, may bring a civil

action in any court of competent jurisdiction.

“(c) In a civil action brought for a violation of section 901 by or on behalf of a person aggrieved by a violation of section 901, such person may recover equitable and legal relief (such as compensatory damages, including for emotional distress, and punitive damages), and attorney's fees (including expert fees).”.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time, and I am ready to close whenever the gentleman from California is ready to close.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I too had the opportunity yesterday to engage with Rebekah and her mother, and I want to just point to a stark reality.

Mr. Chair, 53 percent of trans kids considered suicide last year. I am glad that the Governor of Utah, in a very lengthy letter, said: I want them to live. What Rebekah said is that she loves playing sports. She gets to know people, and they know her.

She said the talk that we are doing on the floor of the House is scary. It puts trans children—children in corners. They don't know who likes them or not or who wants to do harm to them.

This is a meaningless bill. The Olympics has addressed the question. The NCAA has addressed the question.

When will we realize we have the right to freedom of religion and we have a right to our beliefs, and in that we have no right to undermine and threaten the lives of trans children.

Mr. Chair, I stand in opposition to this mean-spirited legislation because I am a woman of faith, and I believe in the humanity of all children.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, fundamentally, the difference between the two sides is that my friends on the other side of the aisle do not recognize trans people as human beings. They do not even recognize the validity of trans. That is a terrible error, and it is wrong, and it does not grant trans people humanity.

A subsequent corollary to this stance is that they don't believe that trans people are who they are, that somehow it is a choice. I am going to tell you: This debate itself has been traumatizing.

I can remember when I was a teenager when debate in California was occurring over the Briggs Initiative, which would have banned LGBT teachers from teaching. One Republican Governor, Ronald Reagan, at the last minute opposed the initiative, and to me that meant a lot. It means a lot to me that Spencer Cox of Utah recognizes that trans kids exist and that we

should protect them. This bill is horrible. All should stand opposed to it.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I have spoken to the absurdity of this debate, but let me conclude by clarifying what this bill does and does not do by reading two paragraphs of this bill—it is one page long.

“Section 901 of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) It shall be a violation of subsection (a) for a recipient of Federal funds who operates, sponsors, or facilitates athletic programs or activities to permit a person whose sex is male to participate in an athletic program or activity that is designated for women or girls.

“(2) For the purposes of this subsection, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth.”

All of these ridiculous things that we have been accused of are not in this bill. This bill does not discriminate against anyone. It does not exhibit any hate toward anyone.

What it does is prohibit Federal funding to institutions that “permit a person whose sex is male to participate in an athletic program or activity that is designated for women or girls.”

The reason for this is simple. Men have certain physiological advantages over women, such as more size and speed. Because of that, allowing biological males to compete against women and girls robs females of equal athletic opportunities and fair playing fields.

H.R. 734 restores the integrity and fairness of women’s sports.

Mr. Chairman, Republicans, contrary to what our colleagues have said and accused us of, Republicans love all God’s children, male and female, born and unborn. Do not question our commitment to fairness to life or to treating people equally. We hate no one.

As my colleagues have pointed out, it is ridiculous that we have had to stand here today to defend the rights of women and girls to participate in sports against other women and girls and they not being taken advantage of by biological males.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues across the aisle to do what is best for America’s women and girls and support this important bill.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a Statement of Administration Policy from the administration.

#### STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 734—PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2023—REP. STEUBE, R-FL, AND 93 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 734.

For students nationwide, participating in sports and being part of a team is an impor-

tant part of growing up, staying engaged in school, and learning leadership and life skills. H.R. 734 would deny access to sports for many families by establishing an absolute ban on transgender students—even those as young as elementary schoolers—playing on a team consistent with their gender identity. Schools, coaches, and athletic associations around the country are already working with families to develop participation rules that are fair and that take into account particular sports, grade levels, and levels of competition. As a national ban that does not account for competitiveness or grade level, H.R. 734 targets people for who they are and therefore is discriminatory. Politicians should not dictate a one-size-fits-all requirement that forces coaches to remove kids from their teams. At a time when transgender youth already face a nationwide mental health crisis, with half of transgender youth in a recent survey saying they have seriously considered suicide, a national law that further stigmatizes these children is completely unnecessary, hurts families and students, and would only put students at greater risk. Discrimination has no place in our nation’s schools or on our playing fields.

Instead of addressing the pressing issues that families and students face today—such as raising teacher pay, keeping guns out of schools, addressing the mental health crisis our youth face, and helping students learn and recover academically from unprecedented disruptions—Congressional Republicans have instead chosen to prioritize policies that discriminate against children.

If the President were presented with H.R. 734, he would veto it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this cruel and discriminatory bill. If Republicans really meant to protect women and girls in sports, they would make it so more women and girls could play, not play politics with children’s lives.

I submitted an amendment to award federal grants to start new school sports teams for women and girls and to break down existing barriers to participation.

My amendment invested in women’s sports so more people could play, more people could participate, but Republicans chose politics over participation. There are real problems impacting women and girls in sports, including pay inequality, sexual harassment and assault, and unequal facilities and resources. This legislation addresses none of these issues.

Instead, we will be voting on a horrific bill to nationalize the cruel bigotry Republicans are implementing in states around the country.

This bill will harm our kids’ mental health, make our schools less welcoming, and prevent trans students from living the full lives they deserve.

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I am in strong support of H.R. 734, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which I am proud to cosponsor. I thank the Congressman from Florida, Mr. STEUBE, for his leadership on this effort.

Over 50 years ago, Title IX was enacted to level the playing field, and ensure that women and girls were given fair opportunities to participate, perform, and achieve in education. One of the primary areas that has been impacted by this law is in the area of women’s sports. Since then, female participation in

sports has increased by 1,057 percent at the high school level, and 614 percent at the post-secondary level.

Women and girls deserve the confidence of stepping up to the plate, onto a field, into a court, or on a track, knowing that the competition will be rule-bound and fair and that their safety has been prioritized. They deserve to have confidence that they are fairly competing against another biological woman.

And most of all, they deserve the chance to be champions.

The actions of the Biden Administration have entirely sacrificed equality in the service of their political agenda; and today I hope my colleagues will join me in voting in favor of this legislation, and restoring the soul of Title IX, that has given so many women and girls life-changing opportunities.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LAMALFA). All time for general debate has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) having assumed the chair,

Mr. LAMALFA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 734) to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### ADDRESSING THE DEBT LIMIT

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, the American people have elected a divided government. Our government is designed to find compromise. That is why the House, the Senate, and the White House should be negotiating a responsible debt limit increase right now.

If you gave your child a credit card and they kept maxing it out to the limit, you wouldn’t blindly just raise the limit, you would change their behavior. That exact same thing is true with our national debt.

We need to lower inflation, reduce our dependence on China, and lift Americans out of poverty. America has a \$31 trillion debt, and Washington is on the clock.

What are Democrats doing?

President Biden is skipping town to deliver a speech in Maryland rather than sitting down to address the debt ceiling. He is giving America’s debt the southern border treatment: Ignore it and hope that it goes away. In fact, he has been avoiding the issue for 77 straight days and counting.

Senator SCHUMER is just missing in action. Rather than find common ground with the House, Senator SCHUMER is having the Senate vote on a nonbinding resolution commending and congratulating the University of Connecticut Men’s Basketball Team for